

METHODS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH—Volume 5—A. C. Corcoran, Editor-in-Chief. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., 200 East Illinois Street, Chicago, 1952. 394 pages, \$7.50.

This most recent volume in a series devoted to descriptions of methods used in medical research contains three sections. The first, edited by Lyman C. Craig, is concerned with "Methods for Separation of Complex Mixtures and Higher Molecular Weight Substances" (countercurrent distribution, paper chromatography, electrophoresis and ultracentrifugation). The third section, edited by Melvin Cohn, describes "Immunochemical Methods for Determining Homogeneity of Proteins and Polysaccharides" (experimental production and separation of antibody-active proteins from sera, quantitative precipitin reactions, etc.).

The second and longest section (A. C. Corcoran, editor) discusses "Methods of Renal Study." In this, the emphasis is properly placed on subjects with but little immediate clinical application: for example, methods for determining rates of excretion of protein and formed elements in the urine are not mentioned, and only a few pages are given to practical methods of "renal function" determination. Aimed at the clinical and laboratory investigator, there are chapters on renal blood flow, water and electrolyte metabolism, bioassay of antidiuretic substances, in vitro studies of renal tubular excretion, electron microscopy, and much material relating to the production of hypertension and renal lesions in the rat together with measurement of arterial pressure and renal function in this animal.

As was the case with earlier volumes, the present one is thorough-going in details and critical if not always encyclopedic. It is recommended to those interested in such topics as were cited above; as the editor modestly hopes, it "will find its place in laboratories rather than libraries," but the latter should also find room for it.

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THE OLD EGYPTIAN MEDICAL PAPYRI—Chauncey D. Leake, Vice-President, University of Texas, Medical Branch, Galveston. University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas, 1952. 108 pages, \$2.00.

Dr. Leake, well known as medical historian and litterateur, presents in pleasant format an interesting description of the Egyptian medical papyri with special reference to the Hearst papyrus which he himself has studied. When one comes to the actual contents of the document Dr. Leake finds that Egyptian therapy was "empirically rational." The reviewer finds it difficult, however, to read much that is intelligently medically into all this, and while the contribution of these ancient documents to the history of civilization is invaluable it is the historian rather than the doctor who will profit from their study.

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ELECTROTHERAPY AND ACTINOTHERAPY—A Textbook for Student Physiotherapists—2nd Edition—E. B. Clayton, M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), Consulting Physician to the Physical Treatment Department, Kings College Hospital, London. Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, London (released through Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore), 1952. 452 pages, \$4.00.

As the title states, this is a textbook for British physical therapy students on electrotherapy which includes diathermy and various electrical currents for muscle stimulation and on actinotherapy which includes infrared and ultraviolet radiations. The exposition is done poorly and with too much emphasis on elementary physics and too little on its application to therapeutic modalities. There are no illustrations and the description of methods is too pithy to be useful.

This book is of no value to physicians and is a poor textbook for students of physical therapy.

ESSENTIALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH—2nd Edition—William P. Shepard, B.S., M.D., M.A., Third Vice-President, Health and Welfare Division, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Clinical Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine; Charles Edward Smith, M.D., D.P.H., Dean School of Public Health, University of California, President, California State Board of Health; Rodney Rau Beard, M.D., M.P.H., Executive and Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine; and Leon Benedict Reynolds, A.B., Sc.D., Professor of Hydraulic and Sanitary Engineering, Stanford University. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 581 pages, \$6.50.

"The question has been raised," Dr. Shepard and his collaborators write, "as to how much of the high military rejection rate is a medical responsibility. This is a little like asking who spilled the milk. Our concern is, not whose fault it is, but what can be done to prevent its future recurrence. It matters little whether the blame be placed on parents, schools, public health agencies, physicians or youth themselves. Here is a national problem of first magnitude. None can deny that medical advice and leadership must play a large part in its solution."

Dr. Shepard, a vice-president of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, who recently served as president of the American Public Health Association, and who is best known for his efforts to fuse the energies of private physicians, health agencies, and other responsible civic and business groups working for improved community health, himself exemplifies the private practitioner who has given his professional life to effective "advice and leadership."

His book brings together for all private physicians a multitude of facts and statistics, all revised for the 1952 edition, to serve as a reference handbook on such subjects as environmental sanitation (water, foods, and sewage), communicable disease control, school health services, health education, industrial health, statistics, and public health nursing. It defines and explains public health operations and the preventive medical program.

The book provides ready answers to quarantine procedures. It has an excellent catalogue of common industrial poisons. It lists the important infectious diseases, describing them and their countermeasures. One long table describes the collection and interpretation of laboratory specimens of the diseases.

These days, when the private physician has come into the public eye in a political way, albeit through no doing of his own, it is increasingly necessary that he know all that is possible about the important and successful functions of his public health agencies and their related groups. He should know their objectives and methods, and how essential his own work is to his community, and what procedures are set in motion by his communications to his public health agencies for the good of all.

The book is the result of considerable intelligent thinking. It will answer many questions. It will explain many arguments. It should be read by every physician.

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CULDOSCOPY—A New Technic in Gynecologic and Obstetric Diagnosis—Albert Decker, M.D., D.O.G., F.A.C.S., Clinical Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1952. 148 pages with 50 figures, \$3.50.

This monograph by Dr. Decker represents the first attempt by the author of the procedure to group together in a single volume all that is available in the current literature concerning the newest method of visualization of the female pelvis. Culdoscopy is a new diagnostic technic unknown to many physicians, and the author has therefore